

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 OPR-02 AID-05 OC-06 A-01 SCS-03

SCA-01 /063 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:SROY:WG

APPROVED BY EA:OVARMSRONG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

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PLEASE PASS TO ASST. SECRETARY HUMMEL FROM EA ARMSTRONG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, AEMR, CH, US

SUBJECT: CHINA EARTHQUAKE - EVACUATION OF USLO PERSONNEL

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A STATUS REPORT ON THE PEKING EARTHQUAKE SITUATION. THE PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY WARNED USLO AND OTHER FOREIGN MISSIONS IN PEKING AUGUST 1 THAT THERE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE LIKELIHOOD OF A STRONG EARTHQUAKE IN THE PEKING AREA FOR THE NEXT MONTH AND THAT THE EARTHQUAKE CENTER IS LIKELY TO MOVE NEARER TO PEKING. THE MINISTRY ADVISED ALL DIPLOMATS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS TO STAY OUTSIDE OF BUILDINGS AND OFFERED TO FACILITATE THE TRAVEL OF DIPLOMATS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS WHO WISHED TO LEAVE CHINA TEMPORARILY.

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2. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AMBASSADOR GATES DECIDED AUG.1 TO EVACUATE ALL USLO WIVES AND DEPENDENTS, UNLESS THEY SPECIFICALLY CHOSE TO REMAIN, AND TO REDUCE STAFF TO ESSENTIAL MEMBERS. LARRY EAGLEBURGER HAS APPROVED AN EVACUATION TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION, AND WE NOW ANTICIPATE THAT APPROXIMATELY 32 DEPENDENTS AND 2 USLO STAFF MEMBERS WILL BE EVACUATED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, PRC OFFICIALS IN BOTH PEKING AND

WASHINGTON HAVE EXPRESSED THANKS FOR OUR EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY BUT HAVE REAFFIRMED THE PRC'S INTENTION TO RELY ON ITS OWN EFFORTS IN DEALING WITH THE EARTHQUAKE SITUATION IN LINE WITH ITS CONSISTENT PRACTICE OF NOT ACCEPTING ASSISTANCE. CHINESE RESPONSE WAS POLITELY WORDED.

4. INFORMATION AVAILABLE THUS FAR INDICATES THAT NO AMERICANS WERE INJURED AS A RESULT OF THE EARTHQUAKE. KISSINGER

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